The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, concerning the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movements.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 26, 1911, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 4, NO. 39 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1914. WHOLE NO. 195

Financial Help Wa

Local Unions and frien should help the Textile Work ers, Glove Workers, and the Calumet victims.

TREATY "JOKER" REMOVED

Washington, Dec. 26.—By a vote of 49 to 39 the United States Senate today removed the "joker" from the treaty submitted by the London safety at sea conference, and sustains the position of the American Federation of Labor that the adoption of the treaty, as presented to the Senate, would tie the hands of this country and make impossible the passage of remedial maritime legislation without the consent of other nations.

The Senate has changed this by approving an amendment which provides that this government reserves the right to impose upon all vessels in the waters of the United States such regulations for safety and such provisions for the health, protection and comfort of passengers, seamen and immigrants as the United States shall enact for vessels of the United States.

Opponents of the treaty insisted that it was being urged by the shipping interests for the purpose of creating a barrier against maritime legislation of the character described in the amendment. It was shown that the adoption of the treaty without the amendment, would make the passage of the La Follette seamen's bill either impossible or wrecked it altogether.

The treaty as amended removes these objections. It is now claimed that the London conference will not prevail upon it as amended by the United States, and the purpose of the London safety at sea conference, which was held last January, has been defeated. According to the terms of the treaty it must be ratified before December 31, 1914, by the nations participating in the conference. Friends of the seamen's bill assert that the La Follette bill covers every purpose the safety at sea conference alleged, and this without making the concessions in the treaty.

Even though the treaty is defeated, it illustrates the resources of seamen's opponents and the necessity for trade unionists and progressives to continually urge their United States Senators that they support the La Follette bill, now pending in the Senate, which carries out platform declarations.

One of the delegates to the London safety at sea conference, Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's Union, who resigned as a delegate shortly after the conference convened.

CONGRESS EQUALIZES A LAW

Washington, Dec. 26.—Both branches of congress have passed a law which gives the right to petition the United States supreme court for a writ of certiorari whenever the supreme court of a state declares a state law invalid on the ground that it violates the Federal Constitution, a treaty or a federal law.

A writ of certiorari is the legal term for an order by a superior court to call up the records of an inferior court in a certain case that it may be tried in the superior court.

For over 100 years the law has permitted appeals to the United States Supreme court only when the highest court of a state decided a law was valid. But if the state supreme court held the law was invalid, appeal to America's highest judicial tribunal was impossible.

This one-sided practice has been of inestimable value to large corporations and special interests in their opposition to remedial legislation in all industrial states for justice instituted by workingmen. To illustrate how this system worked, Representative Webb of the house judiciary committee cited the case of five against the Buffalo Railway company, involving the legality of a compensation act of the state. Decided by the New York State Supreme court, which sustained the law constitutional. No appeal was possible, and the railroad company got the best of it. But if the court had held the law unconstitutional the railroad company could have appealed.

The law just passed by congress ends this unfairness, and in the future, where a state supreme court declares a law unconstitutional for the reasons mentioned above, an appeal can be made to the United States Supreme court.

WORKMEN'S LAW IS INVALID

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 26.—The court of appeals has held that the workmen's compensation act, passed by the last legislature, unconstitutional. Chief Justice Hobson and Judges Miller and Lassing dissented.

The majority opinion believes a constitutional law can be drawn by the legislature, but objection is raised to the present act because of the fact that the amount specified for various damages, the claim being made that the plaintiff is limited in the state constitution. Objection was also made to the section that provides if an employee continues working for an employer after he had posted notices that he has paid premiums under the act, he thereby accepts the provisions of the act. On this portion of the law the majority opinion says:

"When the employer accepts the provisions of this act, the employe is automatically drawn into this so-called contract and made subject to its provisions by failure to give notice in the manner stated in the act. It cannot be then said that he has voluntarily elected to accept the provisions of the act."

Judge Miller, in a minority opinion, declared that the compensation law "should not be set aside on mere speculation or conjecture."

"It is not to be construed," he said, "as an elective compensation act when held invalid, on the contrary, statutes containing the elective feature substantially like the Kentucky statute have expressly been upheld in Wisconsin, Ohio, Massachusetts and Minnesota, and in Washington and Montana have gone further and sustained compulsory acts.

"Kentucky is to be the first State making this radical departure, and in doing so the court fails, it seems to me, to make the essential legal distinction between compulsory and elective acts, by giving more effect to imaginative cases than to real cases.

"The fact is not to be overlooked that the elective feature of the law in this case is made the controlling question in the majority opinion in this case, is not immaterial, presumably, pursuant to the Kentucky constitution, the elective feature is to be given the same effect under the constitutions of the various states where no compensation laws have been passed.

"In view of the uniform line of decisions to which I have referred that elective clause is elective and not compulsory I am of the opinion that the Kentucky compensation act is a valid and enforcible law."

EDUCATOR TALKS ON WAR

Washington, Dec. 26.—"Be neutral inasmuch as you hate no nation but do not condone atrocities if ignorance or barbarism as to the real cause of this war," said Dr. David Starr Jordan, in a speech in this city.

Dr. Jordan deplored the fact that the "picked half million," the finest men in each country, would be the ones most in the war, and that the "weaklings" for future generations will be from the slums of Europe—from the men whom war could not use.

"No country now engaged in the conflict across the seas will want another war to be the next future generation," said this educator, therefore he intimated, the United States would not be drawn into the conflict. He said would be the only nation of the world at the end of the present strife having any men to fight.

"It is not likely that the United States will, under these conditions, receive an indemnity," said Dr. Jordan. "Our country should carry just as few guns as is safe," and the fewer the safer, and when we are giving our sugar to sweeten and making friends we should not be loading up with the same commodity that has brought ruin to the other nations.

"Preparedness for war is not the way to prevent war. The great armies now in the several countries are daredevils willing to take any chances for glory and have the chance of dying," he said.

"No great war ever will come again," the speaker declared. "There may be wars where one nation forces submission of a badly governed neighbor, but the peace of nations of Europe as a whole cannot last. Eventually something will be done to overcome the fear."

Dr. Jordan made statements which he made were the following:

"War is anarchy; law is order.

"We talk of heroes, but as though a hero wasn't made until he had had a bayonet stuck into him.

"It is not true that any nation suffers from the ills of peace. Most of the ills of our own country date back to the civil war."

STRIKE AGAINST PEONAGE

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 26.—The seven months' strike of textile workers against the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills is being additionally protested by the wives of women and children, who insist on their right to be members of a trade union.

Division 884 of the United Textile Workers of America, after the strike was started, the workers are living in army tents purchased by the United Textile Workers of America, President Golden is on the ground, and is in charge of the strike.

One of the main issues involved is a contract workers were compelled to sign before being employed, under which they permitted the company to hold back one week's pay. Should an employe leave the company for any cause whatever, or give five full days' notice, they forfeited all wages due them for the current week worked, in addition to the pay for the previous week's wages held back. Able lawyers have declared this contract to be "nothing more or less than a system of peonage."

The serious charge that the company has made vast sums of money out of this system and that the last large mill built by the combination concern, which was paid for out of the moneys retained under this contract.

The strike of the mills own mills in Dallas and New Orleans. They have rejected every attempt to settle the difficulty, fruitless efforts including those of the representatives of over 100 Georgia churches, prominent citizens of Atlanta, and several mediators from the Labor Department of Labor. Every peace offering has been met by the claim that "there is nothing to arbitrate."

Because this strike means relief from conditions existing in many southern states among textile workers, the trade union movement is giving financial aid to this stately band of fighters.

This is one of the three movements of workers which the A. F. of L. convention in Philadelphia last month, voted to send out an appeal to assist the organizations involved.

DEATH RATE REDUCED.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 26.—At a meeting of the State Federation of Labor executive committee, State Commissioner of Health Bigge said: "As the result of better sanitary conditions the death rate of the city of New York has been reduced from 26 per 1,000 to 13 per 1,000 during the last twenty-five years. That this meant if the same death rate prevailed in New York city there would be a saving of 65,000 more deaths in 1913 than there actually occurred, and that each one of these deaths saved meant at least ten cases of serious illness and that it represented a saving of at least 650,000 cases of serious illness with all the expense necessarily entailed."

LAW PROTECTS ALIENS.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Nonresident aliens may recover damages under the Federal employers' liability law for the death of one who supports them, the United States Supreme court on deciding that the Reading Terminal company of Philadelphia must pay damages to the heirs of a young man in Ireland. The son was killed while employed by the company and a lower court refused to grant an award to the parents.

RESIST WAGE CUT PROPOSAL

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 26.—The Carpenters' District Council of this city makes a stinging reply to certain business interests that their wages be reduced. The following will indicate the sentiments of these workers, who announce their readiness to resist:

"To all advocates for reduction of wages our answer is no. The invocation of 'charity,' 'self-sacrifice,' and 'patriotism' to bribe us into accepting a reduction we consider but vagrant whims or sneering mockery of sacred terms. Are men of other trades, so pinching, for the work, etc., not as susceptible to those appeals as we, think you, or is the application as union men call for them all. But charity begins at home; self-sacrifice is a crime when it assumes proportions of suicide, and patriotism is antipodal to surrender. Pride is the basis of loyalty and achievement to the enemy. In response to the agitations for ten-cent cotton the cotton seeds and cotton planters earnest of their 'charity,' 'self-sacrifice,' and 'patriotism' by buying cotton at ten cents. How long did it take, and what good did the Chamber of Commerce pay? To that body we say we have 'no bargain rates in labor.'

"Truth is that the carpenters are considering their own affairs during a period of business only slightly below normal for this season. To those ill-considered, ill-advised and future agitating, uninvited by us or for us in any way, we say, be still, we will none of you or yours."

EDUCATOR TESTING OREGON WAGE LAW

Washington, Dec. 26.—The Oregon minimum wage law for women is before the United States Supreme court, which will pass upon the constitutionality of this legislation. The decision is awaited with much interest, as it will indicate the attitude of America's highest tribunal toward legislation of this character. Opponents of the law object to its compulsory feature. The law creates an industrial welfare commission, with power to fix minimum rates of wages for women, maximum hours of work, and conditions of service, as to sanitation and the like. The machinery includes an investigation of conditions by the commission, to be carried on by a sort of subsidiary commission composed of representatives of employers, employes, and the public. This subsidiary body reports the facts and findings to the commission, which then decides the wage rate to be established.

About a year ago, under this act, the commission established a minimum rate of $8.64 per week for women in factories in the city of Portland. For women in mercantile establishments a rate almost as high was established, the difference being explained by the fact that salesmen are under the necessity of dressing well, which naturally increases their cost for clothing.

The brief in support of the law was prepared by Miss Josephine Goldmark—who pays less attention to the legal phases of the question and emphasizes its sociological features. The effect of working and living on inadequate wages for women, while the subject of this kind of laws argue that wages are fixed by the cost of living and demand, by elements of individual efficiency, by economic forces that are no more to be coerced by statute than by the attraction of gravitation. Miss Goldmark produces a vast array of testimony to show that this is not at all the fact. She finds that the wage, in fact, compels employers to economize in the worker's efficiency or the profits of the business.

"THE SUN" SHINES AGAIN

New York, Dec. 26.—Trade unionists in this city are asking:

"Has the New York Sun finally accepted the theory that the cost of living is more dies with molasses than with vinegar?"

"Has the Sun exhausted its wonderful vocabulary in opposition to the American Federation of Labor and President Gompers?

In view of the paper's past performances, it would be interested in this leading editorial, issue of December 15:

"THE MOST POWERFUL AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"The Hon. Samuel Gompers got more votes than anybody else except Judge Hughes at the primaries held to designate delegates-at-large to the constitutional convention. This flattering result was unexpected and is a personal triumph of perhaps the most powerful citizen of the United States, whose President-elect is to-day [Nov. 3] in the city of President of the American Federation of Labor.

"The Clayton law contains a monument to Mr. Gompers' fertile activity. He has achieved the status of the most exempted class, a distinct 'estate' of the body politic. Courts have delayed the qualification of some of his labors, ostensibly he succeeds in compelling Congress and the President to do his bidding. He laughs at injunctions. He legalizes boycotts. Not only in the state legislature but in congress he is supreme in his specialty of labor legislation maker.

"What will Colonel William Bauchop Wilson's Department of Labor do? An echo of Mr. Gompers, a branch of his organization.

"The young Industrial Commission is another echo and branch.

"Mr. Gompers is mentioned in no disparagement of Mr. Gompers, whose large successes by persuasion or force and whose steady advancement of his ends prove the testimony of his dexterity, his strength and his genius. He is a real power, a force of the political and official mind. Still less are they recalled to the disparagement of unionized labor, which is not for the weak, pursuing inexorably a definite policy and entitled to all it can get from the feebleness or the fears of employers.

"We merely wished to remark that the American Federation of Labor personifies the singularly able direction of Mr. Gompers, is one of the three actual divisions of the government."

SCHOOL MAN LOSES POINT

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 26.—The state Supreme court has decided against the contention against Superintendent Frederick of the Cleveland public schools, who is resisting the sentence of Common Pleas Judge Neff of ten days in jail and $50 fine for violating an order against the dismissal of teachers who are members of a "teachers' union."

Frederick had appealed to the court of appeals in Cleveland, but that court refused to consider the case until an appeal bond was filed. This he and the school board refused to do on the ground that a superintendent was a public officer and a bond was unnecessary. On this point the Supreme court upheld and decided against Frederick on the ground that there was no error in the court of appeals' action in declining jurisdiction in case because the school board refused to file a bond.

While the question of the right of school teachers to affiliate with a labor union was not squarely passed upon the Supreme court, organized workers are disposed to look upon the ruling as an indication on the part of the court that teachers have the same rights in this matter as other employes of the state and national government.

The efforts of the Cleveland school board against the union, however, have attracted wide attention. Last May the board voted to bar all union teachers, and Superintendent Frederick was ordered to apply the order. Because of his violation of contempt orders by Judge Neff he was sentenced to jail for ten days and paid a fine of $200. He and the school board have been defeated in every legal move since that time.

WIN TWO STRIKES.

Detroit, Dec. 26.—The Cigarmakers' union has won its fight against a well-known cigar factory, which declared for the nonunion shop six months ago.

The Mattress Makers' union has won by a settlement with the Michigan Bedding company which locked out these workers because they demanded the restoration of the gains their union has secured. The eight-hour day will remain in force.

COOKS AND WAITERS WIN.

Springfield, Mass., Dec. 26.—Cooks and waiters employed at the Chandler hotel here have signed an agreement covering working conditions

MEDIATION STOPS STRIKES

Washington, Dec. 26.—In the first annual report of the United States board of mediation and conciliation it is shown that three strikes and 19 threats in cases of differences between railroad employers and their employes, involving 125,565 of the latter.

Some of these cases were settled by one side, some by the other, and in many instances all except two strikes votes had actually been taken before the differences were settled. Two were settled. There have been, however, but two instances where this vote became effective, and in both cases the strikes were called off. In other words, no railroad strike or any serious consequence has occurred in this country during the life of the board of mediation and conciliation.

In one of the cases where the strike vote failed to be effective the request for mediation services was not received until late in the evening, and the strike was set for 6 o'clock next morning. It lasted, however, but twelve hours. In the second case the application for mediation was received from one of the parties, but it was declined by the other. An amicable adjustment was reached, nevertheless, with no destruction to property and with but slight detriment to public interest.

Of the twenty-eight cases, twenty-one were adjusted wholly through mediation and conciliation and arbitration and conciliation. In but five cases was it necessary to resort to the machinery of the board of arbitration.

RAILROADS EVADE DAMAGES

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Evidence submitted before the state commission to-day will decide the wage claims of western railroad engineers and firemen showed the tactics employed by the companies to evade large damage claims as a result of accidents.

Witness testified that in these cases a board consisting of company officials and two so-called outsiders investigated the accident and published the guilt or innocence of the employe in a newspaper before the latter had even had an opportunity to make a statement. The "outsiders" are chosen by company officials.

Representatives of the brotherhoods explained specifically that no person on the railroads acting in this manner was their belief that if a board of inquiry could be formed where one or more not connected with the company was responsible for an accident the company would have a better chance of evading heavy damages.

Safety officials of railroad companies make more money selling jobs than they do from their regular salaries. One witness testified that section bosses in the Chicago district exact tribute from section hands to whom they give jobs, and that foremen of repair shops in the district will discharge them and employ new laborers in order to collect a fee from them.

Henry Rose, of Escanaba, Mich., a fireman on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, told his story of frequent layoffs, loss of seniority, long and tedious trips requiring a vast amount of shoveling. He said that he was never able to get work for a month or six months, and relatives saved his family from starvation.

Engine hostlers, who prepare the locomotives for the road, testified that their hour work day for 16 2-3 cents an hour.

"The surprise test" given engineers was again described. While the lamps on F. Modenbach, a Rock Island fireman, were lighted he was called to report for duty at 2 o'clock in the morning during a heavy sqowstorm and with a thick haze surrounding the city. Just as he left he flashed up at a passing switch. Filled with horror, the engineer applied the emergency brake, but was unable to stop before the train went head foremost into a ditch, skinned his nose, and received many bodily bruises. The engineer was then informed that he had been reported and tossed out upon the hard ground, breaking his collarbone. It was a "surprise test" to see if he would obey the hurt of either man. The engineer was confined in a hospital for several weeks and received no pay from the company during this time. The witness stated that this "surprise test" had been instigated by the trainmaster, who, so far as the witness knew, had not been reprimanded for the foolhardy deed by any of his superiors.

TO STRENGTHEN THE I. & R.

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 26.—The State Federation of Labor is considering to strengthen the present initiative and referendum law of Arkansas, which is the first to be tried in the state. The "emergency clause" is one of the objectionable features that is being urged by Secretary-Treasurer Moore of the Federation explaining as follows:

"The Arkansas I. & R. amendment is a case of the necessity of immediate legislation the legislature may attach an emergency clause to the measure which prevents its being referred to the people for their approval. This would be a perfectly proper case of a real emergency, but the court has decided that the legislature has the right to decide what constitutes an emergency, and, therefore, they may attach it to any ordinance of some of his labors, ostensibly he succeeds in compelling Congress and the President to do his bidding. He laughs at injunctions. He legalizes boycotts. Not only in the state legislature but in congress he is supreme in his specialty of labor legislation maker.

"What will Colonel William Bauchop Wilson's Department of Labor do? An echo of Mr. Gompers, a branch of his federation.

"The young Industrial Commission is another echo and branch.

"Mr. Gompers is mentioned in no disparagement of Mr. Gompers, whose large successes by persuasion or force and whose steady advancement of his ends prove the testimony of his dexterity, his strength and his genius. He is a real power, a force of the political and official mind. Still less are they recalled to the disparagement of unionized labor, which is not for the weak, pursuing inexorably a definite policy and entitled to all it can get from the feebleness or the fears of employers.

"We merely wished to remark that the American Federation of Labor personifies the singularly able direction of Mr. Gompers, is one of the three actual divisions of the government."

ASK FOR NEW LEGISLATION.

Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 26.—The Iowa State Federation of Labor has prepared for legislative action a program presented to the next state assembly. The proposals include: Eight-hour day for women workers; for a semi-monthly pay day instead of once a month; free textbooks in all public schools; eight-hour day on public work; to abolish party emblems on election ballots; for day labor to replace the contract system on public work; for the establishment of a museum of safeguards for all dangerous machinery, under the supervision of the bureau of labor; for the proper lighting and ventilation of workshops, stores and factories; needed changes in the workmen's compensation law; better factory inspection laws; to provide a state commission to fix a standard of safety in all factories and workshops and on construction work

MINERS' WAGES DISCUSSED

Fort Smith, Ark., Dec. 26.—Discussing the wages of Arkansas coal miners, referred to in the annual report of State Mine Inspector Shaw, the Union Sentinel of this city says:

"Numerous and frequent are the stories told of the large earnings of the Arkansas coal miners, but the official results from the fact that the miners' day wages are 'good,' so to speak, but people not identified with the coal industry forget that the bulk of the mining equipment is underground, surrounded with inflammable gases, where fire is forbidden regardless of the precaution taken. Neither do they stop to consider the large proportion of days there is no employment, consequently no wages, for the miners.

"The report of State Mine Inspector Shaw, and from its bulky appearance he has treated the subjects with much completeness, shows the coal diggers in Arkansas were paid a minimum wage of $2.60 and a maximum wage of $5.00 per year during the past year. Trapper boys are eliminated from these figures. And still you hear the old story of a miner making more money than the operator Buck.

"The report also shows that every 1,462.54 tons of coal produced in the state during the year 1913 added a new grave to some cemetery and that every 36,636 tons was mined by a mortal had been killed. Every 1,462.54 accident by a miner is a dangerous one."

GUARDING NATION'S BABES

Washington, Dec. 26.—Infant welfare, centering around an investigation of infant mortality in Johnstown, Pa., is a feature of the second annual report of the children's bureau of the Federal Department of Labor. It is stated that similar investigations and studies will be conducted in various typical parts of the country.

Regarding this study, Miss Lathrop, chief of the bureau, says:

"The reading of first field study will show the coincidence of underpaid fathers, overworked and ignorant mothers, and those hazards to the life of offspring which individual parents cannot avoid or control. This points toward the imperative need of ascertaining a standard of life for the American family. The study of infant mortality involves finding how far the essentials of such a standard may be secured by communities, how far they rest upon better conditions of work and pay, and how far they depend upon the individual rectitude of fathers and mothers. Toward this the ascertainment of this standard it is hoped that the bureau can continue studies into infant mortality may contribute."

The report deals with three questions, the more immediate of which are those of birth registration, dependent children and mothers' pensions laws. In closing, Miss Lathrop says the report sends the first two years of the bureau's existence in which its work has been done with a small staff and little money. The practical wisdom of those who created a federal children's bureau, for the larger task of ascertaining true democratic standards for the nurture and protection of the children of the nation, is amply justified by the public response to the bureau's small performance."

TO CHECK ILLS OF WORKERS

Washington, Dec. 26.—The adoption of vigorous measures for the prevention of disease among workers is urged in a report by the surgeon general of the federal public health service. The economic importance of the proposal is emphasized and it is said that a very large proportion of the loss resulting from sickness and disease can be eliminated by the application of known methods of prevention.

Medical supervision of workers is recommended as an effective method for reducing the losses incurred through illness. Interesting medical superintendent has its origin in the "safety first" movement which is spreading so widely over the country. This safety movement has served to concentrate the attention of the industrial world on the importance of health in the same way that the use of safeguards has served to call attention to the dangers of accidents.

The benefits to the workers themselves through the application of such systems are too obvious to be dwelt upon, says the report. Looking at the matter in a purely covered by some form of insurance the amount received in most cases is inadequate to compensate for the loss of the impairment of their vitality suffered through illness, even when the pecuniary compensation is considered over a loss in time.

PLEADS FOR HUMAN LIFE.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 26.—Government, both national and state, has ignored its constitutional duty—to promote the general welfare—declares Edward T. Devine over to organized charity and to individual philanthropy, was the charge made by Rev. D. Frank Garland in this city.

"There is an enabling clause in the constitution," said the speaker, "which declares that it is the business of the government to look after the general welfare. But this constitutional duty has been ignored—always has been ignored. Looking after the general welfare has been left to a charity body here and a charity organization there, a Red Cross here and a Red Cross there, individual philanthropist there, a church here and a church there. We are not a united people, and we have no unity and we cannot succeed in our purposes.

"There is nothing wrong in that it is wrong to waste our natural resources—which it is. But also it is wrong to waste and destroy the natural resources—people. It is wrong to waste human life. But every time the question comes up that it is a matter of legislative body human life loses. Man loses and the natural resource wins. The baby loses and the hog wins."

MARINE MEN FEDERATE.

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—Marine workers in this city have started a defensive federation, which already numbers 25,000, and which is intended to include every state along the Pacific coast. The organizations that have federated are the unions of sailors, riggers and stevedores, the marine cooks and stewards, fishermen, bay and river steamboatmen, marine gasoline engineers, teamsters, longshoremen, steamtenders, piledrivers, calkers and hoisting engineers.

The name of the new organization is the Sailors' Union of the Workers' Federation of the Pacific Coast. The announced purpose of the new movement is to provide conditions and stop discrimination.

AGREE TO LAWS' PROGRAM.

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 26.—At a meeting of the labor committees of the State Federation of Labor it was decided to introduce a bill to prohibit the employment of young girls in industrial disputes. Other bills favored were: Bill to create a departmental commission; delegates to be placed on a non-partisan ballot.

Increased appropriation for mothers' pensions.

Prohibiting false advertisements for employment.

Regulating apprentices in all trades. For protection of state workers.

AGAINST LEGAL QUIBBLING.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 26.—The State Supreme court has declared its impatience with legal quibbling in a case before it, and that the truth was more to be sought than technicalities and discussions over impractical distinctions between facts and conclusions.

"Almost any answer which the ingenuity of counsel may suggest to a question is deemed wholly or partially a conclusion," said Justice West in his opinion.

URGE FREE TEXT BOOKS.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 26.—The Typographical union has passed resolutions favoring free text books in the public schools. At the last session of the state legislature a free text book bill was introduced, but failed to pass. The Typographical declare they will continue the agitation.

HUGE FUNDS TO BE PROBED

New York, Dec. 26.—The decision of the United States Industrial Relations commission to investigate great financial foundations and institutional charities, maintained by multi-millionaires, has resulted in a meeting of the Rockefeller foundation in this city for the purpose of "discussing the matter."

The commission announces it will probe the Rockefeller and Russell Sage foundations, the Carnegie philanthropies and other benevolences. Charges have been made to the commission that these foundations are the beginning of an effort to perpetuate by present possession of predatory wealth through the corruption of the sources of public opinion."

It is asserted that the basis of the commission's inquiry will be the letters produced by Jesse P. Welborn, president of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company, showing the interest which members of the executive committee of the Rockefeller foundation took in the Colorado coal strike.

The scope of the investigation, as officially outlined, is as follows:

"The commission will investigate the rights, powers, and functions of self-perpetuating organizations under their present charters and the extent to which trade unions are affected thereby under the present constitution of the United States and the restrictions which present conditions may require.

"It will investigate the attitude of high officials of the industrial questions—what organizations such as the Rockefeller foundation are doing to relieve industrial unrest; the principles on which such foundations are shaped and by whom; what part the source of their income plays in determining the principles and policies; whether self-perpetuating organizations such as the Rockefeller foundation are a menace to industrial, social and economic welfare of the nation; what figure they play in politics; the labor policy of "Big Business" in general.

President Gompers, of the A. F. of L., among the witnesses. The list of witnesses and it is probable that United States Senators Kenyon, of Iowa, and Owen, of Oklahoma, who, as a result of the Ludlow legislators led the fight in Congress against granting a federal charter to the Rockefeller foundation.

The investigation will open in this city January 11.

'DUMMY' JURORS SELECTED

Denver, Dec. 26.—The closing sessions of the United States industrial relations commission, which has been investigating the miners' strike, resulted in most sensational disclosures, and throws additional light on the anarchy of Colorado coal operators.

John McQuarkie, who had been an unwilling juror in Huerfano county (scene of the strike zone), explained the general method of selecting coroners' juries. The foreman of any mine where an accident occurred would telephone the coroner, Lafe Chandler, at Walsenburg, and telephoned a deputy sheriff, who accompanied the coroner to the mine. There the foreman of the company, "or the first accident," selected a coroner's jury and had the sheriff serve them with papers. McQuarkie said that the jurors were chosen more than a few words of English. The coroner, not the bereaved victims, was consulted. Usually the return was made out by the coroner and said that the jurors came to his death by reason of his own carelessness.

Sheriff Jeff Farr was asked:

"Has a miner ever been sat on a jury in a criminal case in Huerfano county?"

"Yes, many times," replied Farr.

"How many men on criminal juries who could not speak or understand English?"

"Many of them; many times."

Farr was asked: "You did not examine them at all, and so there might have been even a red-handed murderer among them?"

"So far as I know, yes," replied the sheriff, with a broad grin.

The names of some of the deputies were read, and Farr said they made no report to him. Of one deputy Farr said, he said: "I know him, but I didn't know he was carrying a deputy's papers around."

Rev. James McDonald, a Methodist clergyman, testified that the lack of charity organization in the mining section was due directly to the opposition of the coal operators to such work. They believe, to be to stifle the ambition and the mental and moral growth of the men and that the church, which in many ways has been recognized as a power for uplifting and enlightening mankind."

The witness said he had been threatened by the militia and by company men for his activities in behalf of the strike.

WILL SAVE PREMIUMS.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 26.—This state has been relieved of paying premiums into the workmen's compensation fund for two years and all counties for one year by the payment of big large balances in their respective funds.

The state has paid $34,982.73 in premiums into the compensation fund, against which there has been a liability of $2,472.70 created. The counties have paid $221,756.37, against which $1,000,000 has been paid and accrued. The commission figured that the balances in funds would be sufficient to meet all claims that may accrue during the time specified.

UNIONIST REJECTS A BRIBE

Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 26.—President Brock of the International Laundry Workers union, assisted by Business Agent Quinlivan, of the Central Labor Union, and Organizer Cunningham, has foiled the attempt of employers to disrupt the Laundry Workers' union, which is preparing for a strike.

Brock first told the three men of the bribe they were instructed to offer him. The Reliable Laundry Company, the largest union concern in the city, Wunderlich protection company, and Brock and his friends he intended to accept the offer and expose the employers' methods. He then asked that they search him thoroughly. Quinlivan and the newspaper men did so, finding no money. Brock and union's documents with him. They saw him meet Wunderlich, when the latter produced $500 in bills and told them they both stopped at an express office, where the charter was left.

At a meeting of the Central Labor union Brock and Quinlivan told their story, and the former showed the $500 in bill and True Bills.

It was decided to use the money to further the wage movement of the laundry workers. The incident is being used by these workers in their organizing campaign, and they say that the bribe proves that employers will spend great sums to destroy.